

Page From The Past

Saturday 19th May 1979

Norfolk Island Amateur Sports Association.

Well! Norfolk is on its way and running towards the 6th South Pacific Games to be held in Suva in August/September.

At a meeting held last Wednesday night, the interim committee accepted a Constitution which will be subject to alteration, elected a Vice-President (Gary Robertson), settled on a uniform for the athletes and also suggested that sporting organisations wishing to be affiliated with the Association pay a fee of \$10. This amount will be used mainly for administration purposes.

During the next few days sporting bodies will receive a form giving all particulars and asking for details of proposed teams they wish to be sent to the Games.

As advised on the radio broadcast, it is anticipated that those who will participate in the Games will be asked to provide their own air fares and other accommodation expenses. Sporting bodies are requested to carefully read the residential qualifications which apply for any person or team wishing to represent Norfolk Island.

Vale

Another grand old Norfolkier has passed from our midst. A quiet unassuming personality with a great sense of humour and a great friend, our dearly loved "Matte" - Kate Dinah Quintal - passed away at the Norfolk Island Hospital early last Thursday morning.

Born on 31st July 1897, on Norfolk Island, Mattie was the only daughter of the late Percy Augustus and Bella Quintal. Her only brother Percy William predeceased her a few years back.

Until the age of 25 Mattie lived on Norfolk and then went to Australia where she worked and looked after brother Bill who was also working in Australia.

She came back in 1950 and again looked after brother Bill in their home out at Duncombe Bay until his death. Since that time Mattie has lived on her own in the comfortable little cottage surrounded by many good friends.

Mattie took up bowls and was not only a very keen player but did a tremendous amount of work for the club. Remarks by the visiting bowlers in the bowling notes show the esteem and friendship she received from all who had the privilege of knowing her.

To Mattie's close relatives, Con, John and Ralph Holloway, Roy and Beth Quintal their families and the many friends at Duncombe Bay, our sincere sympathies in the loss of their good friend - and to all the community the sadness of losing a valued member, of the island.

Last Voyage Of Kalia

Genuine regret was expressed when the news came through that M.V. "Kalia" has been sold for scrap (reputedly at a figure of \$750,000) to Taiwanese shipbreakers.

Since the service commenced some 18 months ago, the ship and her crew have not only given a good

reliable cargo service to the island but has provided residents on Norfolk with the opportunity to enjoy very relaxing and pleasant sea voyage holidays to the islands and Australia.

We look forward to the announcement of the replacement vessel and in the meantime, wish the officers and crew Good Luck and Happy Sailing.

Letters To The Editor.

Sir:

For quite a period now, a strong debate has been going on within my mind as to the pros and cons of bringing what I feel is a large issue to your readers.

No doubt this writer is not the first to raise the matter - HEADSTONE!

If a contest were held to name the site of an open Oceans unrestricted waste disposal site, then no doubt the individual who suggested the name of Headstone, should have received the top monies award. The oceans and their life, from the microscopic to the mighty whale, have been a life absorbing interest for me.

Field collection for both museums and university research was an active interest in which I participated for a number of years. My name has been included in research papers as a field collector who has taken both rare specimens and material at the extremes of its ecological niche. I write this, not to boast of past achievements but only to inform that my interest and knowledge of marine life is more than cursory or passing interest.

Two years ago, I spent 6 weeks on Norfolk both collecting and studying local fish life. One of the features that impressed me most about your close reefs, was the very-much-alive and growing corals.

For an island to be in a geographical position such as Norfolk, to be swept by both warm and cold currents and still have had such strong coral gardens, was unique. I write "was unique", for this past Christmas 1978-79 I spent another 4 weeks on Norfolk, once again diving whenever the occasion permitted.

The situation in close has changed. Yes, you still have coral, and it's still growing. The rise in algal growth, however, is much more significant. On reviewing the under-water movies that I exposed on Slaughter Bay's small coral stand, it was with concern that I compared the quite prolific upsurge of weed now covering coral that 2 years ago was clean and healthy.

This in itself is not a unique or indeed, an unnatural situation to come about when a place has been built up around; in fact it is a major concern with dive resort owners around the world.

Large quantities of fresh water, movement of muddy bottom silt; in fact, a number of so-called natural situations can quickly kill a healthy coral reef. However, man usually provides the key to begin the process.

Large cultivated areas cause water run-off, excessively heavy build-ups of washed-off top soil, chemicals from factory sites that begin in small doses and build up as the streams progress towards the end dumping site when running into such vast collecting

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